



H.Res. 1461– Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the terrorist bombings of the United States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and the memorializing of the citizens and families of the United States, the Republic of Kenya, and the United Republic of Tanzania whose lives were lost and injured as a result of these attacks

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1461 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative David Scott (D-GA) on September 18, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1461 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 23, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1461 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Recognizes the historic significance of the 10th anniversary of the al Qaeda bombings of the United States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania;
- Memorializes the citizens and families of the United States, the Republic of Kenya, and the United Republic of Tanzania whose lives were lost and injured as a result of these attacks;
- Mourns the loss of those who lost their lives in these tragic and senseless attacks, especially those who were employed by the embassies;
- Remembers the families and colleagues of the victims whose lives have been forever changed by the loss endured on August 7, 1998;
- Expresses its deepest gratitude to the people of Kenya and Tanzania for their gracious contributions and assistance following these attacks;
- Reaffirms its support for the people of Kenya and Tanzania in striving for future opportunity, democracy, and prosperity; and
- Reaffirms its resolve to defeat al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations.

BACKGROUND

On August 7, 1998, two truck bombs were detonated within minutes of each other at United States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Salaam, Tanzania which claimed the lives of 257 people and injured more than 5,000. Below are excerpts from an investigation into the bombings conducted by the State Department in January, 1999:

Bombing in Nairobi, Kenya

“On August 7, 1998, at approximately 10:30 a.m. local time, terrorists driving in a truck detonated a large bomb in the rear parking area, near the ramp to the basement garage, of the American Embassy in Nairobi. A total of 213 people were killed, of whom 44 were American Embassy employees (12 Americans and 32 Foreign Service National (FSNs) employees). Ten Americans and eleven FSNs were seriously



injured. An estimated 200 Kenyan civilians were killed and 4,000 were injured by the blast in the vicinity of the embassy."

"Damage to the embassy was massive, especially internally. Although there was little structural damage to the five story reinforced concrete building, the explosion reduced much of the interior to rubble--destroying windows, window frames, internal office partitions and other fixtures on the rear side of the building. The secondary fragmentation from flying glass, internal concrete block walls, furniture, and fixtures caused most of the embassy casualties. The majority of the Kenyan casualties resulted from the collapse of the adjacent Ufundi Building, flying glass from the nearby Co-op Bank Building and other buildings located within a two to three block radius. Other casualties were pedestrians or motorists in the crowded streets next to the embassy."

Bombing in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

"On the morning of Friday, August 7, 1998, a truck laden with explosives drove up Laibon Road to one of the two vehicular gates of the US Embassy in Dar Es Salaam. Apparently unable to penetrate the perimeter because it was blocked by an embassy water tanker, the suicide bomber detonated his charge at 10:39 a.m. at a distance of about 35 feet from the outer wall of the chancery. The type and quantity of explosives are still under investigation."

"The bomb attack killed eleven people; one other is missing and presumed dead. Another 85 people were injured. No Americans were among the fatalities, but many were injured, two of them seriously. The chancery suffered major structural damage and was rendered unusable, but it did not collapse. No one inside the chancery was killed, in part due to the strength of the structure and in part to simple luck. A number of third-country diplomatic facilities and residences in the immediate vicinity were severely damaged, and several American Embassy residences were destroyed, as were dozens of vehicles. The American Ambassador's residence, a thousand yards distant and vacant at the time, suffered roof damage and collapsed ceilings." ([Report of the Accountability Review Boards on the Embassy Bombings in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam on August 7, 1998](#))

On October 2, 2007, the House passed the Foreign Service Victims of Terrorism Act of 2007 (H.R. 2828) by a vote of 409 to 12. The bill provides compensation for the dependents of U.S. Embassy employees who are killed by acts of international terrorism. ([Legislative Digest for H.R. 2828](#))

STAFF CONTACT

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